

House District 29

Ralph Samuels, Republican



DATE OF BIRTH: December 1, 1961

PLACE OF BIRTH: Anchorage, Alaska

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 8220 Frank Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

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Anchorage, Alaska 99518

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OCCUPATION: Airline executive, businessman

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 40 years
Anchorage 1985 to present
Fairbanks
King Salmon
Nome

EDUCATION:
UAF, 1980-1985.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Chair, board of directors, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1999-2000; board member, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1995-present; former board member, State Chamber of Commerce; member, Alaska Air Carriers Association.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:
Member, Municipal Budget Advisory Commission, 2000-present; chair, Public Safety Advisory Commission, 1999; former board member: Victims for Justice, Anchorage Youth Court.

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Mountaineering, I have attempted climbing Mt. McKinley three times; mountain biking; hiking; hunting, fishing; travel; sailing; cooking.

OTHER:

I spent most of my life growing up in various parts of Alaska, including Nome, Bristol Bay, Fairbanks and Anchorage. I have lived in Anchorage in the district for 16 years. I feel that this background has given me a good perspective on many Alaskan issues. I enjoy the special things that Alaska has to offer. From Mountaineering to hunting/fishing, Alaska offers opportunities that no place else can.

STATEMENT:

I am a lifelong Alaskan who cares deeply about the challenges and opportunities our state provides.

Our challenges include declining oil production, a weakening salmon industry, and a timber industry that has been virtually eliminated. In addition, the State is spending more money than it is bringing in. In order to have a strong economy, we must take action to reverse these trends. I believe a long range fiscal plan should be the Alaska Legislature's top priority in the coming year.

On the positive side, tourism is showing steady growth, even in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11. Fisheries other than salmon are strong, and there are new players entering into the oil patch. Additionally, we are moving closer to building a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope.

I believe that if we want a better education system, in which every child can achieve their full potential, and if we want a transportation system which is safe and efficient, we must have a strong economy with good paying jobs. We must have companies that are willing to look at Alaska as a place to invest their money and make commitments to our community.

In addition to a strong, diversified economy, education and transportation, my priority will be improved public safety, and to ensure that the rights of crime victims are upheld.

I will work hard for District 29 and do my best to uphold your trust.

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